

Estate Case Reaches Settlement

The first wife of late Chancellor Michael Hooker issued a complaint about her daughter's inheritance.

By JESSICA JOYE
Staff Writer

The widow and daughter of the late Chancellor Michael Hooker recently settled a dispute about the former chancellor's estate.

Although no details have been made public, a lawsuit brought by Hooker's first wife, Anna Hooker Burns, was dismissed last month.

Burns filed a complaint in Orange County court last fall stating that her 19 year-old daughter, Alexandra, had not received what was rightfully hers from her father's estate.

Carmen Hooker Buell, Hooker's widow and the executor of his estate, argued that her late husband's will met the requirements of the divorce contract.

In the complaint Burns claimed Hooker's estate owed her daughter \$300,000 from a life insurance policy and about \$102,000 for half of Alexandra's college expenses at Brown University. In the couple's 1992 divorce agreement, Hooker agreed to make his daughter the beneficiary of a \$300,000 insurance policy and to pay half of her college expenses.

But at the time of his death from non-Hodgkins lymphoma in June 1999, Hooker had not paid his portion of Alexandra's tuition because she had not yet graduated.

In a four-sentence will Hooker wrote two months before his death, he left \$100,000 to his mother, \$300,000 to his daughter and the remainder of his estate to Hooker Buell. There was no \$300,000 insurance policy naming Alexandra as beneficiary when Hooker died.

According to Burns' complaint, Hooker Buell said she thought her late husband intended the \$300,000 stipulated in his will to substitute for the insurance policy referred to in the divorce agreement.

The case was dismissed last month. Neither Hooker Buell, who is now the state secretary of health and human services, or Burns could be reached for comment. According to a News & Observer article published Thursday, Robert B. Glenn, the Durham attorney who represented Alexandra, said a strict confidentiality agreement was a part of the settlement.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

Engaging Play Spoofs, Goofs on Shakespeare

By DAVID POVILL
Staff Writer

It's opening night of "Everton High School Presents: Shakespeare's Greatest Hits." Before the show even begins, the audience is laughing.

Onstage is a great gray castle built from paper and cardboard and an unidentified object with a safari-print blanket draped over it, displaying a blown-up likeness of Shakespeare's face. Inflatable Easter bunnies litter the stage.

A bleached blond man with a lisp and a penchant for spandex introduces himself as the show's director, Doug Ayman, and

invites the crowd to a magical place he calls "Shakespeare-land."

And so begins an hour or so of absolute hilarity. As the title suggests, the show is a spoof of high school productions, and no detail is overlooked.

Director Ken Keech (who, appropriately, plays the role of Ayman) goes to great lengths to recreate the amateur feel and chaotic absurdity of a school play,

theatre review

Lab! Theatre
"Everton High School Presents: Shakespeare's Greatest Hits"
PlayMakers Theatre
Sunday, April 15
★★★★

from the rousing cheers every time "The Mick" (the school's star quarterback, played by Jon Karpinos) enters the stage to the boos and occasional shoe thrown on stage at the band nerd, Neener (Nathan Blumenthal).

The additional cast of characters is superbly ridiculous. There's Tad (Matt Mercer), the ex-lacrosse star who keeps his thespian endeavors a secret from his father. Holden (Charles Roche) is a pot-smoking space-cadet. Sasha (Michael Bullard), the Ukrainian foreign exchange student, is confused when everyone calls him Jose and speaks to him in Spanish ("Donde esta el sombrero, Jose?").

It's hard to put the characters' over-the-top performances into words, and any further attempt would be pointless — you just have to be there. But the experience of these characters is unforgettable.

They take the most shape during the "intermission." Keech smartly hides a whole slew of jokes into this fake 10-minute "break" for the audience to grab some fresh air and for the cast to work through some problems with the show.

The brilliance of the show is in Keech's comedic mind and his ability to perfectly recreate every aspect of a bad high school production.

Even the show program is part of the insanity, with cast bios ranging from shout-outs to Ukrainian gibberish. The result is a wonderful piece of theater, integrating sight gags, sound gags, print gags and prop gags into one ridiculously funny show.

It's far from high-brow theater, but if you're looking for a night of belly-laughs to fight off the end-of-the-semester blues, "Shakespeare's Greatest Hits" is proof that laughter is always the best medicine.

The final performance is tonight at 8:15 p.m. in Playmakers Theatre.

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DTH/SEFTON IPOCK

A passer-by drops a penny into the transportation jar of the "Penny Poll," indicating how he would spend his tax money if it were up to him. The poll was conducted by the Orange County Peace Coalition.

Coalition Questions Federal Spending

The Peace Coalition held a "Penny Poll" for passers-by to demonstrate how they would spend U.S. tax funds.

By MATT VISER
Staff Writer

A local awareness group used Monday's annual deadline for filing federal and state tax returns as a reason to question how the federal government allocates the tax money it collects.

The Orange County Peace Coalition conducted its annual "Penny Poll" in front of the Franklin Street post office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Peace Coalition, which works to educate people about peace and justice issues, consists of 11 different organizations including UNC's Students United for a Responsible Global Environment.

The group set out six glass jars marked for education, environment, health care, housing, military and transportation. Another jar was marked "other," for administration, Congress, foreign affairs and the judiciary.

Passers-by were given 10 pennies and asked, "How would you like to spend your tax money?"

Participants placed pennies in the jars of their choice, indicating how they would spend tax dollars if they had the authority.

After "spending" their tax dollars, participants were shown how the federal government allocates spending.

Coalition member Margaret Misch said the goal of the Penny Poll is to educate the public. "People seem unaware of where their money goes," she said. "We feel there's excessive military spending at the expense of social caus-

es nationally as well as internationally."

Many participants agreed that the government doesn't always fairly represent the American public.

"It seems like what everybody wants and what the government wants is different," said Mary Paden, 28, of Durham. "The government is allocating funds for the present rather than looking to the future."

Paden said she voted for concerns of the "future" such as health care, education and environment. She didn't put any money into the military, on which the Peace Coalition claims the government spends 22 percent of the tax money it collects.

Dave Walker, 20, of Carrboro, also said he thinks the government spends too much money on the military, citing paranoia as a reason for the excessive spending. "The U.S. is afraid of losing everything they have," he said. "But we should be more concerned with internal decay rather than external decay."

Walker said he put most of his money into education. "Once you have education, the other things will follow," he said.

"Being a teacher is one of the most important jobs in the country and it's also one of the most underpaid."

Jim Nee, who was in town from Boston to visit his girlfriend, said he had slightly different priorities. "I voted largely for military and transportation," he said. "In my area, all transportation goes towards mass transit."

But Conley Davis, 14, from Farmville, didn't hesitate to put more money into the education container. "I feel that education is important for me, for my children, and for my children's children."

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Town Gets Fast Japanese Food

By ISAAC GROVES
Staff Writer

The Kurama Japanese Seafood and Steak House — Sushi Bar opened an express location on Columbia Street last week.

The Kurama Express in Chapel Hill is a spin-off of the Kurama Japanese steak house near South Square Mall in Durham.

But unlike the Durham location, there will not be any hot griddles and flames at the tables in Chapel Hill.

"Right now, it's just sushi and noodles," said Mimi Scarborough, manager of Kurama.

The restaurant, located at 105 Columbia St., has a counter and five booths.

According to the menu, there will be 37 types of sushi and sashimi and four types of noodles.

Kurama, named after a sacred Japanese mountain, is the newest in a chain of five restaurants in the Triangle, Hilton Head, S.C., and Augusta, Ga. The chain has been family-run for 25 years. "I guess you could call it a chain," Scarborough said. "It's mostly myself, my mother and my godfather."

Robert Humphreys, executive director of the Chapel Hill Downtown Commission, said he was glad to have something new in the formerly vacant space. "It's never good to have an empty spot, and I'm glad that somebody is putting something creative in there," he said.

Humphreys said he is not worried about having another chain store at the prime downtown intersection.

"It's just a different way of doing business," Humphreys said. "The thing that is important is that

they become part of the community and tailor their services to the community."

Scarborough said she is happy with the restaurant's location because of the heavy foot traffic and the quality of downtown.

"Franklin Street has changed a lot in the past two years," she said. "Franklin Street is really improving."

Aaron Nelson, director of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce,

also said he was not worried about having this type of chain store downtown.

"I'd like to keep downtown Chapel Hill as diverse as possible," he said. "I like when businesses are owned by people who live in the area."

"I think there's a difference between chain restaurants and a restaurant with two locations."

Japanese restaurants soon will be very common downtown.

Directly across from Kurama, in the empty storefront where Roly Poly used to be, is a sign for Sakura Express sushi and

noodles. The new restaurant is still under construction, but seems to be close to finished.

"If there are two, then you'll always know you can go to Columbia Street and know you can get into a Japanese restaurant," Humphreys said. "It will be like shoe stores in the mall."

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AARON NELSON
Chamber of Commerce Director

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DTH/ARIEL SHUMAKER

Freshman Sara Atkins works on the catwalk above the stage in Memorial Hall on Monday afternoon. Atkins and the rest of the staff were setting up for the Moscow Ballet, which will perform Wednesday night as the year's final installment of the Carolina Union Performing Arts Series.

N.C. Senators Ask Bush for Funds to Clean Up Air

Pollutants from the TVA power plant are causing increased acid rain, smog and ozone accumulation.

By BEN DESANTIS
Staff Writer

N.C. senators used their few minutes with President Bush during his first visit to the state last Wednesday to push for fund-

ing to improve the state's environment.

A group of senators led by Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Beaufort, gave a letter signed by all 50 state senators to Bush, urging him and Congress to help fund cleanups of air pollution damaging the state's environment.

The letter was the result of findings by the N.C. Senate Select Committee on Mountain Air Quality.

The committee reported that visibility in the state's mountains has dwindled from 65 miles in 1980 to 15 miles.

Committee Co-chairman Sen. Stephen Metcalf, D-Buncombe, said he believes Bush's reaction to the letter was positive and that he hopes the president acts on the issue soon. "He promised to take it back to Washington and do some research on it, and then he'd get back to us."

According to committee reports, the major cause of the pollutants is the Tennessee Valley Authority, a federally owned power plant.

Dr. Robert Bruck, professor of plant pathology and forestry at N.C. State

University, said the TVA is responsible for most of the 80 percent of North Carolina's air pollution problems caused by out-of-state agents. "TVA is the single largest emitter of sulfur and nitrogen oxide in the United States."

Sulfur and nitrogen oxide are causes of acid rain and ozone, two elements that produce smog when combined with heat and light.

As Bush went back to Washington, state legislators prepared to discuss in-state pollution reforms.

Senate Bill 1078, introduced today, aims to limit the amount of pollutants produced by power plants.

The bill calls for reductions of 70 to 75 percent in levels of nitrous oxide and sulfur dioxide by 2009 and 2013, respectively, and a reduction in levels of mercury by 50 to 60 percent.

Metcalf said state cleanups are necessary prior to future federal cleanups.

Meanwhile, senators said they are hoping for a positive reply from Bush.

Committee Co-chairman Sen.

Charles Carter, D-Buncombe, said he believes Bush's past environmental record while governor of Texas could play a major part in his endorsing the cleanups. "He's done certain things with the environment that aren't very popular," Carter said. "President Bush said he needed an environmental issue (to address) and this was one he was very interested in."

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